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portions of the systematic account of the fishes are admirably illustrated and the accompanying charts of geographical distribution of families, etc., add much to the lucidity of the presentation. This volume is undoubtedly bound to rank high among its predecessors in this excellent series.

G. H. P.

Essays on Transformism. — Professor A. Giard¹ has collected and published in book form seven of his essays which appeared during the last twenty-five years and which all deal with evolutionary matters. The essays, which are in no essential respects changed from their original form, deal with the history of transformism, the embryology of ascidians and the origin of vertebrates, biology and taxonomy, the factors of evolution, Lamarck's principle and the heredity of somatic variations, convergence in pelagic forms, and animal symmetry; and afford a convenient collection for those interested in the evolutionary speculations of this well known French biologist.

G. H. P.

Morphology and Anthropology.² — The growth of anthropology particularly in its relations to morphology is well exemplified in the last number of the Cambridge Biological Series by Duckworth. The object of the volume is to set before the student a concise exposition of man's place in Nature as determined by natural history methods. The first part of the book deals with this question from the standpoint of comparative anatomy and describes in an abbreviated way the systems of organs in the mammals and especially in the primates, devoting particular attention to the crania and teeth. Then follows a condensed account of human embryology, after which anatomical variations are taken up. These fill the greater part of the volume, the last section of which deals with palæontological materials of importance to anthropology. The condensation of so much substance into so small a space often seriously interferes with an adequate treatment of the subject and one is often led to suspect that the volume may be found more acceptable to the student who is cramming for an examination than to the one who is seriously engaged in a real study of anthropology; nor does the preface sug-

¹ Giard, A. *Controverses Transformistes*. C. Naud, Paris. 8vo, viii + 180 pp., 23 figs.

² Duckworth, W. L. H. *Morphology and Anthropology*. Cambridge Biological Series, Macmillan & Co., 1904. 8vo, xxviii + 564 pp., 333 figs., 5 charts.

gest that this use of the book was far from the author's intentions. However commendable such a standpoint may be, it is almost invariably assumed to the detriment of the really serious study of the subject. As an examination compendium the volume has much to recommend it; but as a contribution to the science of anthropology it is much less satisfactory. The illustrations are numerous but often crude and harsh.

G. H. P.

Northern Plankton.¹—The Hensen school of planktologists at Kiel have undertaken, under the leadership of Professor Karl Brandt, to issue a monograph of all the organisms found in the plankton of northern seas above 50° N. Associated with the editor-in-chief in this undertaking are twenty specialists, each an authority on the group of organisms with which he deals.

The literature which pertains to the complex of organisms composing the plankton is widely scattered and much of it inaccessible except in the large libraries at the great centers of learning. A comprehensive manual of the plankton will therefore be most welcome, not only to the biologist at the seashore who wishes to acquaint himself quickly with pelagic organisms, but also to the beginner who for the first time beholds the marvels of the "tow." The usefulness of this work is enhanced by the fact that nearly every species is represented by a "Habitusbild" or detail figure of diagnostic characters. Although limited in its scope to the fauna of northern and arctic seas, and based largely upon the investigations along the coasts of northern Europe, it is not a work of merely local interest, useful only within the limits of latitude which the editors have chosen, for the organisms of the plankton are in many cases cosmopolitan in their distribution and many species of the warm temperate Atlantic are carried by the Gulf Stream far beyond 50° N.

The work is to consist of twenty-one sections numbered in zoölogical and botanical sequence, each with independent pagination, and issued in parts as rapidly as the papers are prepared. Part I contains five of these sections, the pelagic tunicates by Drs. Borgert, Apstein, and Lohmann; the Ostracoda by Professor G. W. Müller

¹ Brandt, K. *Nordisches Plankton*. Lipsius & Tischer, Kiel and Leipzig, 1903. Erste Lieferung. Sect. III, 21 pp., 24 figs.; VII, 15 pp., 24 figs.; IX, 30 pp., 34 figs.; XIV, 32 pp., 33 figs.; XV, 52 pp., 56 figs. 1901. M. 6.—Zweite Lieferung. Sect. XI, 7 pp., 16 figs.; XX, 29 pp., 25 figs.; XXI, 40 pp., 135 figs. M. 3.60.